[31st December 1953

Abolition of District Boards.

* 40 *Q.*—Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the abolition of district boards and the alternative agency to be set up in the place of the district boards; and

(*b*) if so, the decision taken thereon?

11-20 a.m. The Hon. Sri K. RAJARAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister tell us the circumstances in which the old taluk boards were abolished? "

The Hon. Sri K. RAJARAM :—" It is an old story; it is not a thing of the present."

Sri M. P. GOVINDA MENON :—" May I request the Hon. Minister to have a settled policy once for all regarding local bodies before he begins to air about the possibilities of changes and thereby creating confusion? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am intervening because it is a very general question applicable to all policies. I would like to tell hon. Members that in a democracy we have to fly a few kites before we know how the wind blows."

Election of members to the District Boards.

* 41 *Q.*—Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps have been taken by the Government to conduct the election of members to the district boards; and

(*b*) the programme of dates fixed for the same?

The Hon. Sri K. RAJARAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Was not a specific assurance given by the Hon. the Chief Minister that the elections would not be put off and that the newly-elected Boards would begin to function from 1st April 1953? "

The Hon. Sri K. RAJARAM :—" Yes, Sir, it was promised on the floor of the Assembly. But the Government are contemplating legislation to extend the term of Special Officers by three more months, and we expect the elections will be concluded before June next."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" As electoral rolls are ready, why should not the elections be held before March 1954? "

The Hon. Sri K. RAJARAM :—" There are several other things to be done before elections could be held."